In the specification:

Please replace the paragraphs at page 3, lines 28-35 with the following:

Preferably the telomere binding protein is selected from the group comprising G22P1, XRCC5, hPOT1, and SIRT2, and their homologues or analogues. These genes and their proteins are described and characterised in the publications listed in the OMIM database at:

G22P1 on the world wide web at --
http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/htbin-post/Omim/dispmim?152690

XRCC5 on the world wide web at --
http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/htbin-post/Omim/dispmim?194364

hPOT1 on the world wide web at --
http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/htbin-post/Omim/dispmim?606478

SIRT2 on the world wide web at --
http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/htbin-post/Omim/dispmim?604479

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 32 over to page 5, line 9, with the following:

Preferably the kit comprises PCR primers for detection of mRNA encoding the telomere binding protein. Preferably, the protein is selected from the group comprising G22P1, XRCC5, hPOT1, and SIRT2, or homologues and analogues thereof. In alternative embodiments of the invention, the protein may be derived from another telomere binding protein or senescence associated gene, as exemplified by and in no way limited by, Rif1, Rif2, Rap1, SIRTs1, 3, 4, 5, Est1, Est2, TLG1, cdc13, A26, ATM, HDAC1, hSEP1, hTEP1, HuCds1, MYC, NEK2, p21, PIN2, TNKS, TERC, hTERT, TOP2A, TOP2B, TP53, TRF1, TRF2, WRN. Full

details of such genes are listed and linked to the following location on the world web at ~~http://www~~.genlink.wustl.- edu/teldb/pteldb/pteldb3.html